c1806-7 1806?

Mr. Austin

~~I am extremely sorry to find by~~ a Statement of Facts handed to me by Mr. B. Mifflin relative to your Conduct towards Miss Champneys in Christ Church on 14 & 21 of September is now before me, by which I find you were so rude ~~as to Compel her to relinquish her Seat in your Favour~~

as to press against her, so that she was obliged to support herself by holding on the Pew, and that when she was going to sit down you pushed her out of her Seat". & "that you declared you would kick her out of the Pew" — It is true that you are entitled to two Seats in Pew 98 from ~~25 March last~~ it is equally true that others have their Rights as well as you, and that no particular part of the Pew is exclusively yours or theirs — I am extremely sorry to hear of such indecorum on your part to this Lady especially in a place of Worship where the Mind ought to be Calm & Serene — I have been 14 Years Church Warden of the United Ep. Churches, during which time I do not ~~ever~~ recollect a Complaint of this Nature ever being made, & I hope for your own sake that in future ~~there~~ Nothing of the same Kind will occur.

I am Sir your Humble Servt.

Tho Cumpston
Church Warden

Miss Champneys states.

That on sunday 14th September she was setting in pew No. in Christ Church, when a man entered ~~in the~~ pew whom she did not know, but since understands, that his name is Stephen Austin. She had taken a seat next the door & facing the pullpit. He came up to her & said "Miss set over on the other side" and he repeated this command three times, when she got up and he took by the arm, moved her out of her place & took the seat himself. Knowing she had a right (by request of Mrs. Mifflin who occupied the same seat) to sit there, and the man appearing like a gentleman she ~~was~~ astonished & confounded at conduct so rude.

On the next sunday ~~sunday~~ she took her seat again, when the same man came in the pew, and stood up close to her, and when she arose in the service, he very rudely pressed against her, so that she was obliged to support herself by holding on the pew; and when she was going to sit down he pushed her out of her seat, and sat in it himself, and said to her several times "he had never seen such rudeness in his life" and "that if she did not behave herself he would turn her out of the pew." She replied

"It is you sir! that is rude, not me." He, then said "if "She did not know how to behave herself better, he would "turn her out of the pew." She then told him it was more "than he dared to do, as the seat was Mrs. Mifflin's and "she was authorized to sit there." He replied "He had "two seats, and he would lock her out" during this behaviour a young lady, she believes his daughter, urged him to desist. —

Joseph Clay Esquire, says that Mr. Austin declared to him that if Miss Champneys came to the pew again he would bolt her out.

Miss Maria Mifflin was present the first Sunday and confirms the facts stated.

Box 17 B

Miſs Champneys
Statement relative to S Austin

Thomas Cumpston Esqr

Sir

I herewith hand you an order from Mr Saml Church to transfer to me five Seats in his Pew in consequence of which I resign my Right to the three Seats held by me in Christ Church — With respect

I am Sir

Your Obedt Servt

Jno Miller

29 Decr 1806.

Thomas Cumpston Esqr.